

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 5th, 2009

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Kevin Bartram, Kathleen Walsh, Rochelle Grey, Roy Jarnecke, Pat Thalman, Peter Scelfo, George Solley, Julie Perry, and Debby Klein.

Approval of Minutes

Roy Jarnecke called the meeting to order. The minutes of January 8th, 2009 were reviewed, and Debby Klein made a motion to accept. Motion was seconded by Kevin Bartram and unanimously passed.

Public Comment

Chairman Jarnecke recognized two members of the public that were in attendance and allowed them to introduce themselves. Kathryn Willis presented the group a handout from the Arts and Cultural Council of the Rappahannock and suggested individuals get in contact with Tiffany Glass Ferreira about state-wide issues or participate in her blog. Also included were notes about House Bill 1735 for the establishment of Arts and Cultural Districts and information about the recent grants workshop.

Chris Limbreck with the Economic Development Authority introduced himself to the group as a local developer and photographer. He informed everyone that he would be a regular attendee at the Arts Commission Meetings. He also gave a thorough explanation of the historical background of an IDA versus the current structure of the EDA. Mr. Limbreck informed the group that the EDA is in the process of creating a JUMPS ART program to give grant monies to local arts organizations or special events and encouraged members to reach out to the EDA as needs arise.

Presentations

Rappahannock Youth Orchestra – Vicki Ashby and Ryan Nobles

Ms. Ashby and Ms. Nobles introduced themselves from the RYO. They passed out a handout and gave a presentation about the organization's history and mission.

Fredericksburg IT Primer – Julie Perry

Julie Perry gave a brief overview of procedures for city commissions when it comes to fiscal accountability and decision making. She also introduced Nancy Buck from the CRRL and ArtsPoint.org and Suzanne Goodman the city's Chief Information Officer. The three went over some procedural issues in regards to the city's new website and how the Arts Commission could increase its visibility and link in to the city's new site. Suzanne Goodman offered a page on the new

city website for the Arts Commission and Nancy Buck told the group that they could use ArtPoint.org as a resource as well. Nancy also offered her skills to contribute some time and design skills to modify ArtsPoint.org with the commission's input.

Committee Reports

Website and Cultural Survey Committee Report- Pat Thalman/Carolyn Van Der Jagt

Carolyn Van Der Jagt presented four surveys that had been distributed via email to the commission members prior to the meeting. George Solley asked about the projected time-line for the project and was told that the committee was still working on that issue. A short discussion followed about the idea of an artists' inventory or directory that would eventually link to the survey. Julie Perry brought up the idea of combining that directory with the ArtsPoint.org website/directory. That suggestion met mixed reviews. Peter Scelfo asked the committee to present the project in its entirety instead of the piece-meal approach and there was some discussion about the committee seeking guidance or direction from the entire commission. In the end, a motion was made by Pat Thalman to adopt the 4 surveys as distributed. Kevin Bartrum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The group will continue to present their progress in the meetings to come.

Old Business

Public Arts Project – Bicycle Racks – George Solley

George Solley informed the commission that he presented the concept of a Bike Rack project to the EDA at their January meeting. They were very interested and encouraged him to develop the proposal. Currently the EDA is developing the criteria and Mr. Solley will follow-up. Peter Scelfo asked Mr. Solley the city's feeling about encouraging bicycle use on sidewalks. As an example of the city's commitment to this idea Mr. Solley told the commission about the Pathways Steering Committee that he serves on and their work on these types of programs. Julie Perry asked about the timeline of the project and was told that although the next EDA grant review is in April the commission and the project should not feel restricted by those limitations. Chris Limbreck said the EDA considered the funding on going. Potential locations for these racks have been identified with Hurkamp Park, the Library, and the Train Station among the list.

New Business

Report of ArtWorks Meeting – Roy Jarnecke

Roy reported to the group about aspects of the ArtWorks meeting in Richmond January 27th – 29th. He spoke about the *Crooked Road* tourism project headed up by Virginia Tourism Corporation and what it illustrates about the importance and potential of partnerships. Members can check out that project at

<http://www.virginia.org/site/features.asp?featureid=109> . He also told the group how moved he was by poet Nikki Giovanni's speech about the importance of the Arts to a community. He did say that in the current economic crisis the state agencies represented are expecting cuts to their arts funding in 2009/2010. However, they are lobbying for proportional cuts as those received by other state programs/agencies.

Not on the Agenda

Downtown Hotel – Courtyard by Marriott

Julie Perry briefed the commission about a recent meeting with the management team at PGM Properties who will operate the new Downtown Hotel. Questions had been raised at a previous meeting about the hotel's commitment to using local art / artists. Mrs. Perry was told that the interior designers had been shopping local art and would continue to investigate all the places it could be incorporated. Marriott does have some restrictions for its properties but the management team was very optimistic about the possibilities. Kathleen Walsh had also had a similar conversation with Mr. Mitchell the developer on the project and received similar assurances.

Announcements

Several announcements followed including a discussion of a way to identify members of the Arts Commission during First Friday or other community activities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5th at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

Adjournment

George Solley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Peter Scelfo seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.